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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/808,575

03/25/2004

Kuniyuki Tani

65933-081

5532

7590

08/10/2005

McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
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EXAMINER

CUNNINGHAM, TERRY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,575

Applicant(s)

TANI ET AL.

Examiner

Terry D. Cunningham

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 9, 11-14, 16, 18, 20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2816

DETAILED ACTION

Summary of changes in this action

1. The response overcome the outstanding informality rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Curd (USPN 5,650,672). Curd discloses, in Fig. 2, a circuit comprising: “a driving circuit (everything in Fig. 2 except the circuit providing IN and the inverter)” each having “a CMOS transistor (the top two transistors in each branch)” and “a switching element (between each CMOS transistor pair and ground)”; and “a control unit (IN and the inverter)”, all connected and operating similarly as recited by Applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2816

Claims 11-14, 16, 18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Signell et al. (USPN 6,028,546) in view of Curd (USPN 5,650,672). Signell et al. disclose, in Fig. 4, a pipeline analog-to-digital conversion comprising: “an amplifier unit (32-4) which repeats and auto-zero operation and an amplification operation alternately” and “bias voltage generating circuit (not show, but disclosed as biasing the circuit of Fig. 4)”. However, the reference to Signell et al. does not expressly disclose details for the “bias voltage generating circuit”. The above discussed “bias voltage generating circuit” to Curd is disclosed as having the advantage of provide efficient dual-mode operation allowing for power savings. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to use the specific “bias voltage generating circuit” of Curd for the broadly disclosed “bias voltage generating circuit” of Signell et al. to obtain the expected advantage of efficient dual-mode operation allowing for power savings.

Claims 6, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Examiner has fully considered Applicant’s remarks for the above art rejections and has not found them to be persuasive. Firstly, Examiner points out that based on the whole body of case law that Applicant is too narrowly interpreting the cited case law.

Applicant argues concerning the language reciting that the “control unit” “switches a current driving capability of the driving unit according to a variation in an amount of current required for the load in a period for applying the bias voltage to the load”. Clearly, the reference to Curd “switches the “driving capability of the driving unit according” to IN. The claims fail to claim or disclose any circuitry for determining the “variation in an amount of current required for the load in a period for applying the bias voltage to the load”. It is clear from the specification

Art Unit: 2816

that the disclosed operation is merely providing a predetermine state to the “control unit”, such that the circuit operates as intended. Examiner contends that the circuit to Curd is capable of providing this recited functional language.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terry Cunningham whose telephone number is 571-272-1742. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 to 6:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

Art Unit: 2816

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TC
August 2, 2005


Terry D. Cunningham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816